



February
2011

Editor: Tom Raschke (traschke@globaldialog.com) or 608-219-9243

Club Web site: <http://www.yaharafishingclub.org>

Kids Ice Fishing Day January 15th, 2011



Crowd picture by Duffy Kopf

Though the weather on Saturday was brisk, there were hundreds of “bundled up” youngsters getting a free rod/reel combo from the Club and main sponsor Wal-Mart. It was great to see so many young anglers out on the ice at Brittingham Park enjoying themselves in the snow and cold. The only problem is that the fishing was rather slow and not that many kids could experience the joy and excitement of catching their first fish through the ice. But, the kids got the gear to let them try ice fishing again with their parents and friends. The children loved being outside and I commend the parents and children who took advantage of the great generosity that the Yahara Fishing Club members and their sponsors that provided this “family type” event to the community. The price was right for all during these tough economic times (free) and even might have given some children the tools to catch some fish on their own for a family meal.

**For more pictures of Kids Ice Fishing Day check check out the YFC website:
http://www.yaharafishingclub.org/yfcnews_files/yfclceFishing.htm**

Gary Engberg

Gary Engberg Outdoors

OK...let me set this up for you. I'm always talkin' about my grandsons.....now one of 'em has moved in! Wow! So much for the quiet retired life! Little Jack is 1 1/2 years old and "bumpa" (grampa) is becoming a good buddy for sure. This morning we made chili together while we munched on Cheddar Bunnies and then had lunch together.....he doesn't care for the venison but he can eat beans like a cowboy! After nap time came the reality of that! Major eruption.....get the wipes! He is loving my new fishing channel on U-Verse.....the World Fishing Network or WFN.....24/7 fishin' and more fishin'. Of course, I have him convinced the bumpa is the world's greatest fisherman.....and now my picture is on the Madison Fishing Expo poster! I'm a little sleep deprived but my wife and I are lovin' it. Our daughter took a new job teaching at MATC while her husband finishes the semester teaching in Minneapolis. So things will calm down.....sooner or later.....I hope!

Right around the corner is the Madison Fishing Expo. Probably not much new to report. Hope all members can make it out there to help out one way or another, take in a few seminars, and do some shopping. I like to reserve a few things to buy at "our show".

This supports our vendors.....many of them have been doing the Expo for many years. There will be more posters at the February 8 meeting. This is a critical time for putting them up and checking the ones already posted.....some folks take them down early. Last year the show was super.....attendance only topped by 2 years when we had Al Lindner and Kevin Van Dam one week after he won the Bassmasters Classic. And we did not keep close count on Military Vets who were our guests last year. This year we are doing a "wounded warrior" program. If you know anyone who has been hurt serving our

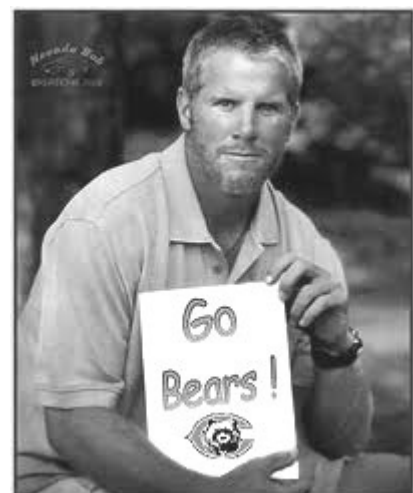
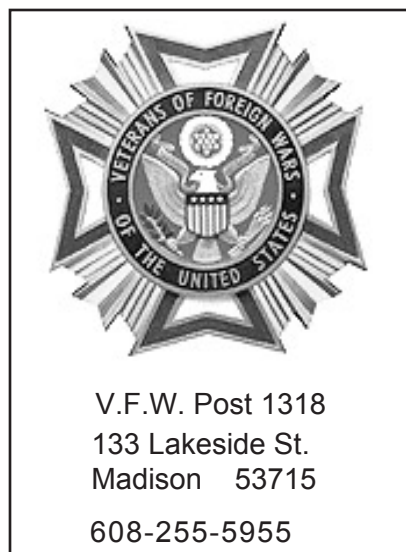
country.....please let them know we'd like them to come and enjoy the show for free. And by all means.....help some kids come to the show. Check out Madfishexpo.com for a complete list of speakers and events.

Our February outing is at the Milwaukee harbor for giant brown trout.....yippee skippee.....set the hook. Our guide.....who is also our guest speaker.....will be Ben Kueng. Be sure to attend and check out this terrific opportunity to catch a trophy. I don't want to hear any whining about the winter blahs or cabin fever.....sharpen your hooks, get out there and make 'em pay.

I had thought that ice fishing was slowing down as it typically does this time of year and then I went out on Lake Monona last week with Jack Hurst for a few hours jerkin' perch. Jack filled up and I came close! I had trouble keeping up with him walking as well as fishing! He's in pretty darn good shape for a young fella! And then this past Monday I caught 10 nice gills on the south end of Waubesa.....and invited them home for dinner. So all is not lost on the ice fishing scene. All my tip-ups are up in Beaver Dam at the Arctic Fisherman hospital getting new life.....most are 25-30 years old. Maybe next year I'll get a bucket of shiners and show these grandsons how to catch a big walleye.

The March meeting will be our annual auction/fundraiser.....so start diggin through your boats, garages, and basements for some good stuff to donate. I'm also gonna look in my wife's purse for a little currency. I'm in the buyin' mood folks.....having just bought a new boat.....18' 97 Champion bass boat.....geez, my heart starts pounding every time I say that. All those years in the Four Lakes Bass Club fishing in a tin boat or the back of someone else's.....now I'm gonna do some runnin' around.....as long as I don't fall down doing it! Wanna talk fishin'?.....220-8934

Charlie



It didn't work.

When is ice safe?

Notes by Stan Nichols

Never! According to Bill Krieger and his sidekick Jim (I didn't get Jim's last name). They are ice rescue and ice diving instructors from Cambridge. They have a point. You will notice that the Dane County Sheriffs Department gives warnings about the ice being unsafe but they never tell you when it is safe. Does that mean you shouldn't take the risk and not go out on the ice. No-we all take risks every day. We get out of bed or drive on the Beltline. You get the point, have fun but use caution.

I consider myself a cautious person and I am not the first or last one out there during the ice-fishing season but I can relate some personal experiences that emphasize the point about caution. I have gone through the ice three times and that was with being careful. One was on Lake Waubesa. I was perch fishing and snow covered the ice. The wind had blown up snowdrifts. One drift formed a snow bridge over an expansion crack that I couldn't see. I walked over the area a number of times while fishing. On the last time, one foot went through. I was lucky. I only got we up to the thigh. One late season the fishing was good on Monona Bay so I wanted to give it one more try. I drove over and watched. There where still fisherman out there and I watched three guys come off the ice. I followed their trail out. All of a sudden, without any warning, I was through the ice. I knew Monona Bay pretty well and wouldn't have gone out except I knew it was shallow water. I got wet up to my belly button, but had it been deeper water I could have been in trouble. The last time I went partially through with a truck. I was fishing on Lake Mason where you can drive vehicles on the ice. I drove out and went fishing. The ice was thick and there were plenty of vehicles on the ice. They plowed roads on Lake Mason to drive on and I took one to get off the ice. I didn't like it because it was slippery but with plow drifts on either side I didn't see a good way of getting off. All of a sudden four wheels through the ice. What happened was the previous weekend was warm and melted a lot of the snow that drained into the road, and then it froze with water underneath. I went through the thin layer of ice on the top and was hung up on the truck frame. Again I got lucky, the week before I bought a tow strap from Farm and Fleet. There was a guide with a "monster" truck out moving ice shacks. He jerked me out with only minor damage. The tow strap was one of the better \$15 investments I ever made. So now, my criteria are if guys are walking out, I watch; if guys are taking ATVs, I walk; if guys are driving vehicles, I might take an ATV. Call me cautious. I may not catch as many fish that way but at least I am around to eat them.

A thing I don't think Bill and Jim emphasized enough is how fast conditions can change, especially

in the spring. Once I was fishing perch on Lake Mendota on a Saturday morning and the ice was fine. By Sunday afternoon the lake was wide open. I've seen the same thing happened on Lake Waubesa. One winter, not too long ago (I don't remember the exact year), the lakes didn't freeze entirely over. We were fishing perch on Lake Waubesa and heard the ice booming. When we went to get off, we found we were fishing on an iceberg. We found a lead we could jump over, but there were a lot of anglers out further than we were. I don't know how they got off. Early season anglers often fish the bays before the main lakes freeze. Again be cautious. Every year the Coast Guard has to rescue anglers from icebergs in Lake Erie, Superior, or other Great Lakes. When fishing the Apostle Islands many anglers tow boats behind themselves.

I always carry a compass with me. At times I've been out in the middle of Monona, Waubesa, or Mendota and the fog or a snow squall rolled in. You couldn't see shore any more. Which way do you go? One really foggy day on Waubesa (a few years ago) two of the locals went into open water with their ATVs. Even though they knew the lake and where open water was, they were disoriented and didn't slow down.

Another item is ice-creepers. If it is slippery, wear them. I've personally know two people that died as a result of slipping on the ice and hitting their head. They weren't ice-fisherman but we go into the risky environment on purpose.

So what guidelines did Bill and Jim give?

-Don't go out on the ice alone. Let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return

-Wear proper clothing. Items that provide thermal protection and floatation.

-Carry ice picks and a length of rope

-Beware of shallow areas where springs might carry warm water to the surface to form thin spots.

-Use caution near shorelines-water level drops may occur close to shore, and ice may not be supported by water underneath.

-When operating vehicles on ice, keep doors and windows open.

-Don't follow other vehicles closely. The weight creates waves in the ice that may cause breaks

-Don't operate vehicles between 15 and 25 miles per hour. This speed causes ice to move at its resonant frequency that may cause ice to shift and fail

-Travel slowly at night so you don't overrun your headlights.

-Watch out for and avoid ice heaves

-Heavy loads like trucks should be separated by at least 100 feet.

-When parking long-term, measure deflection using the pilot hole/water hole method. If the rate of change does not decrease after one-half hour, move or decrease

the load. (I am not sure what this means, but Bill and Jim said that if you drill a hole in the ice and water spouts out of it, it is not a good place to be).

- Expansion cracks are common. Dry cracks that don't go through the ice can be ignored. Wet cracks indicate that ice should be twice as thick as clear ice to carry the same load.

- Wet crack should be crossed at a 90-degree angle. If it necessary to drive parallel to a wet crack, keep at least 30 feet from it.

- If a plowed course is planned, keep snow piles as wide and as low as possible, and parallel to the wind direction.

- In places where crowds gather, drill a hole and monitor the water level. Pilot holes should be drilled approximately every 30 feet. If water spills over onto the top of the ice, disperse the crowd.

- A large temperature fluctuation (plus or minus 30 degrees) requires people to stay off the ice for at least 24 hours.

They did give some ice strength guidelines for clear ice that we've seen before: maximum load- 2-inches, one person walking; 4-inches, one person fishing, group walking; 5-inches, snowmobile; 8-inches, car; 12-inches, light truck. A problem I have is often early in the season the ice is so clear it is difficult to determine how thick it is. It is time to get out the ice spud and give the ice a whack. Hang on tight and if the spud goes through head back for shore.

Another safety item is a personal floatation devise (PFD). They are a pain to use and I've never seen many anglers use them. The vests are bulky,

especially with all the winter clothes; I am skeptical about how mechanical devices like inflatables work in cold, icy weather. Some vests recom-

mend you not use them in freezing conditions. Survival coats and suits are expensive and may not work well when recreating. The best thing I've found is an old water ski belt. They don't make them anymore because they are not legal PFDs, but I think they make similar items for swimming pool safety. The belts strap around your waste so they don't encumber your arms, they will float you, they tighten clothes so water takes a longer time to get in, they have a belt so you could attach a pouch to carry ice picks, and they can be belted into a circle so you could attach a rope to it and throw it to someone that needs rescuing. It also gives you back support for long vigils sitting on an ice bucket and I attached a carabineer to mine so I can hook a rope to pull my sled that makes pulling more efficient. If you pray over your ice hole when fishing, it makes a good kneeling pad. I often wear mine when using waders during the open water season.

So what to do if you fall through? The first thing to realize is that you have some time to get out. The biggest risk is hypothermia. In cold water it takes about 1.5 minutes for your feet to get cold, 7-to-10 minutes to become delusional, and 15 minutes to become unconscious. Bend your knees so your feet float and swim (dolphin kick) or roll onto the ice. Pulling yourself onto the ice is where the ice picks become invaluable. Once on the ice, spread yourself out and roll if you have to get away from the hole. To get to shore follow the same path you used to get out.

If you are a rescuer remember that 60% of ice fatalities are rescuers. You can be a hero but don't be foolish. Keep the rescued person in a horizontal position and don't squeeze their chest. Sitting them up or squeezing the chest can cause cold blood to go to the core, which is not good. Shivering is a good sign; it means the body is functioning. Not shivering is bad. Call for help; remember in a cold water drowning a person isn't dead until they are warm and dead.

Bill and Jim made an offer to let any interested persons try out the coldwater survival suits. They were going to let Charlie or Tom knows about contact information. Look in other areas of the newsletter for contact information.



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Geoff Crandall 608-831-6020 or 608-831-1127 Ext. 304 crandall@msbnrg.com

Steve Reinstra 608-770-7131 mpd339r@charter.net

The Capital City Chapter of Muskies, Inc. announced today that the 10th Annual Intermediate and Advanced Muskie School will be conducted at Waunakee High School on March 19, 2011. This will mark a full decade of offering the school to the public (CCMI membership is not required). This school is designed specifically for advanced and intermediate muskie anglers and includes many in-depth classes and poolside demonstrations. Classes for beginning muskie anglers are also being offered. Students will see demos of tried and true lures as well as new lures that have never been seen before (including lures that produced 50" muskies from the Madison Chain.

Over thirty classes and many topics are included for the 1 ½ hour classes. Included are: lure and rod making, reel and rod maintenance, Vilas County, Canadian and Madison Chain muskie strategies, sucker rigs, trolling youth fishing etc. Students will pick up new ideas and techniques to help them improve their success rate on the water. The first Muskie School had 50 students and last year the school had over 200 in attendance.

CCMI has provided funding for the stocking of muskellunge in conjunction with the ongoing five year research project in Madison area lakes (DNR approved). The longevity and growth rates of several species of muskie are being compared to determine which of two different strains of muskie is better able to grow and sustain itself in our local waters. According to local fishery biologists and experts, there is no known or documented natural reproduction of muskies in the Madison area lakes, therefore, all muskies in the Madison lakes are believed to have been stocked. After 25 years of stocking, 50+" muskies have been caught and released in the last two years.

The Capital City Chapter of Muskies Inc. is a volunteer organization established in 1983 and has over 350 members residing primarily in central Wisconsin.

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Brown Trout Outing, Feb 12th, Milwaukee

YFC members mark your calendar. Ben Kueng will be speaking at our Feb meeting on the 8th followed by an outing on Saturday the 12th. To register for the outing, please provide a down payment of \$25 at the next meeting to the YFC treasurer. We don't know the exact cost, but it will be less than \$100 - depends on how many register. More detail to follow. This is a an opportunity to participate in and learn about this adventure.at a very reasonable price. Hope to see a bunch of us there.
Tom Klein

Ben Kueng, guide to the outing

Hello and thank you for you're interest in a club outing for brown trout and steelhead. The marinas iced up by the first week of December this year and we have been taking advantage of the early ice bite ever since. The browns are stacked in the marinas pretty thick right now and the water clarity is almost perfect. For the last 2 weeks the water has been dirty with only 1 foot of visibility and before that it was gin clear. Every day on the harbor is a little different and you generally have to constantly tweak your presentation to match the trout's mood. This year we started catching most of our fish on lake shiners, but the last few days' fresh spawn has been more productive. I am very particular about the size and quality of brown eggs I use, which is something I will go into extensively when I speak at your club.

My general rule of thumb is that I like to get at least 1 hit per every line that I have in the water during a full-day trip. Here is a good example of the extremes from day to day. Yesterday I had 5 clients on the ice and we were running 18 lines including my 3. We landed 12 fish including an 18 and 20lb brown, lost 7 and missed another 8 fish. Out of the 5 clients only 1 was jigging the entire day and ended up going 2 for 4, landing a 4 and 20lb brown trout. The 20lber took him 20 minutes to land!! The next day I had 3 clients on the ice with 12 lines in the water and we ended up going 0 for 11. There weren't any issues this day locating fish, the fish just weren't aggressive.

I spend a majority of my winter fishing the harbors for trout and it's rare for me to be off the fish for more than a few hours. However, trout are very finicky and are unlike any other fish you have ever pursued through the ice. Trout fishing is definitely not a "numbers game" but the reward is much, much greater than yanking pike after pike through a hole on tip-ups.

As an avid fisherman and outdoor enthusiast I am always looking to step up my game and learn whatever I can to make me a better fisherman. I believe it's the same for most of you reading this. This is one of the main reasons why we join clubs and socialize with people that have the same interests. What you will learn from

me on this outing will not only help you become better trout anglers, but better anglers all around. The key to trout fishing is stealth and I can't tell you how much more successful I have been with other species since I started trout fishing.

Personally I find that the automatic fisherman (www.automaticicefisherman.com) is a much better tool for pursuing trout than any tip-up on the market. The AF allows you to fight every fish on a rod and reel, which greatly increases your odds on landing each fish. With a tip-up you are fighting the fish without a drag and it's very hard for most people I fish with to hand line a 20lb trout without snapping the fluorocarbon leader. I personally own 35 AF and am expecting another order of 20 in the next couple weeks, so everybody will have at least 2 AF and a jig rod to use as there own during the outing.

If you have any specific questions I encourage you to make a list and bring it with you on the night I speak at the club. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Happy New Year!

Ben Kueng
<http://www.benkueng.com>



YFC 2011 Club Dues

As the year 2010 has come to an end, it is time to renew your membership in the Yahara Fishing Club.

You can pay your dues at the December meeting or by sending your check to the club's post office box: P. O. 3271, Madison 53704.

Individual memberships are still \$25.00 and family memberships are \$35.00. The money raised from the annual dues is used to cover the cost of operating the fishing club.

Did You Know...

It makes a difference where you buy your boat launch permit in Dane County. If you purchase your permit from the City of Madison, all funds received go to support and improve the City of Madison parks and launches. If you purchase your permit from Dane County, the money is used to support and improve parks and launches on a county wide basis. So if you live in the City of Madison and primarily use their parks and launches, you may get a better return on your dollars spent for launch permits by purchasing from the City of Madison or a Madison bait shop such as D&S Bait.

Jack



Jack Hurst at the last meeting giving a fishing tip.

Yahara Fishing Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 3271
Madison, WI 53704

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

Annual Dues:

- Individual.....\$25
- Family.....\$35
- Youth Member.....Free
(with paid membership)

Except for special Summer "On the water" dates, meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Lakeside VFW Hall, John Nolan Dr, & Lakeside St. in Madison.

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The next meeting is on **Tuesday, February 8th**, at the Lakeside VFW Hall (John Nolen Rr. & Lakeside St.)

The Board Of Directors meet at 6:00 pm, The **General Membership meeting starts at 7:00 pm.**

Speaker : Ben Kueng

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February Events

February 8th - Monthly club meeting at the VFW hall. Ben Kueng will be speaking about the upcoming Lake Michigan Lake Trout Outing.

February 12th - Lake Michigan Lake Trout Outing. See page 6.

February 25-27th - Madison Fishing Expo, Alliant Energy Center

March Events

March 8th - Club meeting at the VFW hall. Annual Club Auction.

The Yahara Fishing Club's doors are open to **EVERYONE**, so invite a friend to the meeting!

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| President - Charlie Grimm ...249-9694 | Director - Tom Wilke834-9554 | Director - Roger Swenson 752-6825 |
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Check out our web page at:
www.yaharafishingclub.org



Yahara Fishing Club
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